



[Note Regarding Possible Publication of a Book on Pairc History]

I never at any time had any intention, or ambition, to write a book of any description, because I felt I was not equipped educationally to attempt to write something for publication.

Towards the end of 1998 I was gathering my papers in order to put them away, and as I cast my eye over my notes, my interest in the history of the Park Peninsula was re-kindled.

At first I set out to write a more comprehensive piece on the clearance of Lemreway and Orinsay in 1842/43, but when I completed that piece I felt it was necessary to set that story in its proper context, of the wider history of the Park Peninsula and the Highlands as a whole, so that young people might understand better, the terrible struggle of our forebears.

Although I carried out some research into local history over the years, I did not write my notes in a scientific way, making sure of noting my sources, because my intention was to use my notes for my own information only. If one is thinking of publishing, one should prepare his notes carefully, for easy reference.

I am therefore somewhat concerned in case I have used other people's expressions or even ideas inadvertently.

In the end the Park Peninsula project snowballed into a 24-chapter manuscript, and now I would like to consult some knowledgeable friends for a frank assessment of whether the project in its first draft herewith, is worth further work with a view to submission for publication.

1. I am not quite happy with the last three chapters.
2. Possibly the two genealogy chapters might be better as an appendix.
3. With regard to publication, I shall be guided by my friend's opinions.
4. Very little of the history of the land struggles in Lewis was ever written, and I feel that is a great pity.

[ends]

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